

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01995 010645Z

44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 CIEP-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /138 W

----- 079256

R 010626Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 734

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, RH, SF, ZA

SUBJECT: ALLEGED BORDER INCIDENTS

1. ON SEPT 29 SUNDAY TIMES OF ZAMBIA REPORTED TWO ALLEGED INCIDENTS ON SEPT 24 INVOLVING EXCHANGE OF SHOTS ACROSS ZAMBEZI RIVER BY RHODESIAN/SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIERS AND ZAMBIAN BORDER GUARDS. NO CASUALTIES REPORTED.

2. MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OFFICIALS IN LUSAKA AND CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS AT THE BORDER HAVE NEITHER CONFIRMED NOR DENIED THE ACCOUNT GIVEN TO THE SUNDAY TIMES BY LOCAL VILLAGERS. ACCORDING TO LATTER, ONE ALLEGED INCIDENT OCCURRED ABOUT 1800 HOURS NEAR KAZUNGULA VILLAGE, MORE THAN 80 KM WEST OF LIVINGSTONE, AND LASTED TWENTY MINUTES. INCIDENT SAID TO HAVE FOLLOWED VIOLATION OF ZAMBIAN TERRITORIAL SPACE BY BOTH RHODESIAN AIRCRAFT AND SPEEDBOAT. ACCORDING SUNDAY TIMES, VILLAGERS UNAWARE WHO FIRED FIRST SHOT BUT QUOTED THEM AS SAYING THAT OF LATE RHODESIANS HAD BEEN IN HABIT OF FIRING INTO ZAMBIA. SOME VILLAGERS HAD

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ALSO HEARD OF SIMILAR SHOOTING INCIDENT WHICH

OCCURRED SAME DAY NEAR SESHEKE NEAR ZAMBIA'S BORDER
WITH CAPRIVI STRIP, LEADING SUNDAY TIMES TO SPECULATE
THAT INCIDENTS REFLECTED "COORDINATED PLAN" BY
RHODESIANS AND SOUTH AFRICANS.

3. COMMENT: SPORADIC FIRINGS ACROSS ZAMBEZI
INVOLVING RHODESIAN OR SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES AND
ZAMBIAN BORDER FORCES OR AFRICAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS
HAVE BEEN FREQUENT OCCURRENCES THIS YEAR
(LUSAKA A-68). ZAMBIAN PRESS HOWEVER IS UNDER
INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO PUBLICIZE THESE INCIDENTS
AND GENERALLY HAS NOT DONE SO. THIS IS FIRST SUCH
PRESS REPORT IN ALMOST FIVE MONTHS. WHILE SUNDAY
TIMES STORY MAY BE WORK OF OVER-ZEALOUS EDITOR, IT
COULD ALSO REFLECT DECISION BY GRZ TO ALLOW MORE
PUBLICITY TO BE GIVEN TO THESE INCIDENTS -- AND, BY
EXTENSION, TO CONTINUING THREAT TO ZAMBIA'S SECURITY
FROM SOUTHERN WHITE-RULED NEIGHBORS.
WILKOWSKI

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